

CONSEQUENCES OF DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL

Introduction:

In 2003, 1.1million 16-19 -year olds and 2.4 million 20-25-year olds did not have a high school diploma and were not enrolled in school, for a total of 3.5million. Most of these youth, at best, are headed for a life of sporadic employment and low wages. For them, establishing a stable family and raising children who can make it in our society and economy can be problematic.¹

Consequences for those students who drop out of school may include:-

Economic:

In 1971, male dropouts earned \$35,087 (in 2002 dollars), falling to \$23, 903 in 2002, a decline of 34.7%.²

In the same period, the earnings of female dropouts fell from \$19,888 to \$17,114.²

Recent dropouts will earn \$200,000 less than high school graduates and \$800,000 less than college graduates, in their lives.³

Dropouts make up nearly half the heads of households on welfare.⁴

Unemployment:

High percentages of young dropouts are either not employed or are not even in the labor force.⁵

Engagement in high-risk behaviors :

The rate of engagement in high-risk behaviors such as premature sexual activity, early pregnancy, delinquency, crime, violence, alcohol and drug abuse, and suicide has found to be significantly higher among dropouts.⁶

Incarceration:

Dropouts make up nearly half the prison population⁷

Driver's License/ Employment Certificate

A driver's license or a learner's permit may not be issued to an individual less than 18 years of age who is considered a dropout. A driver's license, or learner's permit, may be revoked, and an employment certificate revoked or denied, if a student drops out.

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Cost To Society:

Over 25 years to 30 years, a dropout student can cost a community as much as \$500,000 in public assistance, health care, and incarceration costs.⁹

References:

1. Paul E. Barton. *One third of a Nation* p. 40 Policy Information Center. Educational Testing Service. 2005

Economic:

2. Paul E. Barton. *One Third of a Nation* Pg. 41 Policy Information Center, Educational Testing Service 2005

3. Wendy Schwartz *New Information on Youth Who Drop Out* pg 1 Source: ERIC Clearinghouse on Education

4. Focus Adolescent services. *Youth Who Drop Out* p3 Source ERIC Clearinghouse on Urban Education

Unemployment

5. Civil Rights Project. Harvard University. Civil Rights in Brief *DROPOUTS* p1

Engagement in High Risk Behaviors

6. E. Gregory Woods *Reducing the Dropout Rate* School Improvement Research Series p.2

Incarceration:

7. Civil Rights Project. Harvard University Civil Rights in Brief *DROPOUTS*

Driver's License

8. IC 9-24-2

Sec.1 (a) A driver's license or a learner's permit may not be issued to an individual less than 18 (18) years of age who meets any of the following conditions:

Is considered a dropout under IC 20-33-2-28.5

(b) (1) driver's license or learner's permit; and employment certificate will be revoked or denied

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Cost to Society

9. Indiana's Education Round Table 2003 p 17